

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012**

**The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, February 27, 2012, in the cafeteria of Kickemuit Middle School, 525 Child Street, Warren, RI. The Chairperson, John C. Bento, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM.**

**Present: John C. Bento, Chair, Paul Silva, Vice-Chair, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer,(7:25 PM), Karen A. Lynch, Secretary, Denise R. Arsenault, Diane B. Campbell, Marjorie J. McBride, Susan Rancourt and John P. Saviano; Melinda L. Thies, Superintendent; Mario J. Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Pauline A. Silva, Director of Administration and Finance; Mary N. Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title I; Leslie J. Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor**

**Absent: none**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

**All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

## **ACCOLADES**

### **USDA HealthierUS Awards**

**Mrs. Campbell opened the presentation of the USDA's Bronze Awards to the four Bristol Warren elementary schools.**

**"My name is Diana Campbell and I have had the honor of being the Chair of the BWRSD Wellness Committee for almost five years now. In that time, we have made great strides in our district's focus on wellness – both physical and nutritional.**

**Physically, we've seen the incorporation of Exercise Breaks in our elementary schools, where students break up their days with brief bits of exercise. This has had a noticeable impact on student achievement and behavior.**

**We've also increased our before & after school physical activities through the district, thanks often to volunteerism of teachers like Peter Kells & Susan Donovan at Guiteras and Erin Welchman at Rockwell, and others who have started running/walking clubs. We also have two state-of-the-art Wellness Centers in our district that are open to students and staff.**

**Nutritionally, we have brought healthier & more choices to our lunch rooms and have had an impact on the foods served for our classroom celebrations. Even our students have gotten into the act with Hugh**

**Cole's Project Yummy, where students receive stickers every time they eat their vegetables or take a salad with their lunch.**

**We've also been the recipient for the past three years of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Worksite Wellness Award for our staff wellness initiatives and programs.**

**Last year, we had our first Annual Celebrating Wellness Week, highlighting wellness throughout the district. This was a week of activities involving staff, parents, administration, and students, who got to show off and celebrate their wellness programs and activities.**

**We've done all of this with the support and hard work of our staff and administration who deserve to be recognized for their efforts – Thank you to all of you.**

**Tonight is another kind of celebration. It's not often we acknowledge a school catering company for their efforts. But Chartwells has been a wonderful partner in our wellness efforts. They're not alone, of course, but their responsiveness, attention to the needs of the students and their flexibility really has helped our district to get to where we are tonight.**

**Tonight it is my pleasure to introduce you to John Magnarelli from the USDA. John is here to formally recognize the work we've done in the area of nutrition in our elementary schools. We are very pleased and**

**proud of our accomplishments in this area and it is nice to get the recognition for it. Thank you everyone for your help in getting us to this night.”**

**Mr. Magnarelli, who has been involved in school lunch programs for the past 25 years, said in a humorous way, he survives the snide remarks that go along with being part of a school lunch program, a football referee and a school board member because it is for the kids.**

**Bristol Warren’s four elementary schools have gone above and beyond what is required; 2,800 schools in the country are being recognized, but with over 100,000 schools in the United State, Bristol Warren is in the top 3% and is to be congratulated. Not just one person deserves the credit, but a whole team including Chartwells, the nurses, the teachers and the school board.**

**Mrs. Pauline Silva presented USDA certificates to a number of staff members at each of the elementary schools, including the principal, nurse, health/PE teacher, and food service staff. Also recognized with certificates were Chartwells Manager Steve Harrison, Executive Chef Jeff Simbro, Nutritionist Nancy Roberts, School Committee Member and Wellness Committee Chair Diana Campbell, and Superintendent Melinda Thies. Mr. Magnarelli presented each principal with a banner for their school and \$500.**

## **2011-2012 Fall Sports Honor Recipients**

### **Football**

**Joseph San Martin – Division IIB 1st Team Linebacker, Offensive Back of the Year, Defensive Team MVP**

**Theo Moskala – Division IIB 1st Team Offensive Lineman, Offensive Team MVP, All-Academic Team, RI Interscholastic League East Player of the Month; The Golden Dozen Football (one of the top 12 Academic Players for Fall 2012 Football)**

**Gian DiMezza – Division IIB 1st Team Running Back**

**Aaron Booth – Division IIB 2nd Team Running Back**

**Evan Fortin – Division IIB 2nd Team Offensive Lineman**

**Nicholas Murgo – Division IIB 2nd Team Offensive Lineman, All-Academic Team**

**Kyle Valenzuela – Division IIB 2nd Team Quarterback, All-Academic Team**

**Keegan White-O'Brien – Division IIB All-Academic Team**

**Adam Almeida – Division IIB All-Academic Team**

**Girls' Cross Country --All-Metropolitan Sportsmanship Team of the Year--Coach Andrew Sabourin**

**Meghan Rainville – All-Metropolitan Division 3rd Team, All Class B 3rd Team, RI Cox Sports Award Fall Finalist 2011-2012**

**Katarina Heyden – 12th Place Freshmen State Championship, All-Metropolitan Division 3rd Team, All Class B 3rd Team**

**Jocelyn Alexandre – Academic All-State**

**Kiley Quinn – Academic All-State**

**Boys' Cross Country -- All-Metropolitan Sportsmanship Team of the Year – Coach Neale Ross**

**Brandon Paulino – All-Metropolitan Division 2nd Team**

**James Stanley – All-Metropolitan Division 3rd Team**

**Spencer Dennis – Academic All-State**

**Nicholas Andreadis – Academic All-State**

### **Volleyball**

**Nicole Delekta – All-Division II North 2nd Team**

**Crystal Leitao – All-Division II North 2nd Team**

**Olivia DaCosta – All-Division II North 3rd Team**

### **Tennis**

**Lauren Fletcher – All-Division III South 1st Team Singles**

**Marisa Silva – All-Division III South 1st Team Doubles**

**Brooke Spina – All-Division III South 1st Team Doubles**

### **Girls' Soccer**

**Christie Ribiero – All Division II Team, RI Cox Sports Award Fall**

**Finalist Brooke Pacheco – All Division II Team**

**Felicia Vieira – All Division II Team**

**Carmen Hogan – All Division II Team**

**Alexis Vieira – All Division II Tournament Team**

**Catherine Lopes – All Division II Tournament Team**

**Victoria Campo – All Division II North Sportsmanship Player of the Team**

**Boys' Soccer**

**Justin Aubin – All-Division II North 1st Team**

**Ricardo Melo – All Division II North 2nd Team**

**Trevor Sousa – All Division II North 2nd Team**

**Matthew Cabral – All Division II North 3rd Team**

**The Rhode Island Art Education Association has announced the recipients of the 2012 Scholastic Art Awards for Rhode Island, and seven Mt. Hope High School artists have won Gold Key and Silver Key awards for their artworks! The Gold Key Award represents the highest level of achievement at the regional level and all Gold Key Award recipients are considered for recognition at the national competition. Awarded since 1923, some of the past Scholastic Art & Writing Award winners include Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford and Joyce Carol Oates.**

**This year's RI Scholastic Art Awards recipients from MHHS are:**

**Nick Andreadis - Gold Key and a Portfolio Award**

**Maddie Dennis - Gold Key**

**Tyler Murgio - Gold Key**

**Keely Varada - Gold Key**

**Nicole Delekta - Silver Key**

**Brooke Pacheco - 2 Silver Keys**

## **Alyssa Stuart - Silver Key**

**The Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association has named**

**Beth Penkala the Rhode Island Athletic Director of the Year! We enthusiastically congratulate Beth for this most prestigious honor. Beth is a role model to educators, coaches, students and athletes, alike, and is greatly deserving of this award. Through the efforts of Beth Penkala and other athletic administrators like her, student-athletes are able to attain higher goals and enrich their lives through sport.**

**The R I Interscholastic League has instituted a Student Athlete of the Month Program. The goal of this program is to recognize the efforts of student athletes in R I high school athletic programs who excel in the classroom and during competition, participate in multiple school sponsored sports, and demonstrate good citizenship in their school and community**

**We are proud to say Mt. Hope High School has had two student athletes of the month.**

**Samantha Fletcher (December)**

**Samantha, a Senior, participates in Cross Country and Outdoor Track and is the captain of the Girls' Basketball Team. She is also an outstanding student, maintaining an impressive 3.5 GPA in honors**



and advanced placement courses. She is a member of the National Honor Society, VAASA, the Debate team, Executive Board and Student Council. In addition, Samantha somehow finds time to work several hours a week at the Superintendent's Office.

#### **Audra Morrow (January)**

Audra, also a senior, is captain of the gymnastics team and also participates in JV Girls' Lacrosse. She is also an outstanding student, maintaining an impressive 3.1 GPA in honors and advanced placement courses and is in the top 20% of her class. Audra is president of the National Honor Society, Junior Class Vice President, and also a member of student council parliamentarian and captain of the debate team. In addition, she was the winner of the Law Day essay contest and is a West Point Class of 2016 appointee.

**Congratulations to the Girls' Indoor Track Team for winning the Sullivan Division Championship by defeating previously unbeaten Moses Brown and Hope on Monday January 16th. Under the direction of Coaches, Andrew Sabourin and Jeff Blanchet, the Huskies finished the dual meet season undefeated with nine wins and zero losses to earn the first ever championship for a Mt. Hope High School boys or girls track or cross country team.**

**Mt. Hope Girls Indoor Track Team Members:**

**Jocelyn Alexandre Mae-Lin Lee**

**Maggie Azar Jessica Madeiro**

**Hazel Baldwin-Kress Kylie McPherson**

**Baylee Bryden Andrea Pereira**

**Hayley Cambrola Meghan Rainville**

**Victoria Campo Vivian Ramos**

**Kelly Coccio Nicole Rusin**

**Hanna Forsberg Lucy Spence**

**Katarina Heyden Megan Vento**

**Erin Killeavy Julia Vollaro**

**Congratulations to the Girls JV Soccer Team for capturing their second consecutive Division II State Championship.**

**Allison Faria Lucy Spence**

**Alexandra Hill Julia Vollaro**

**Kaitlyn Ouellette Daisy Alves**

**Taylor M. Sousa Sarah Aubin**

**Olivia Almeida Mallory Beskid**

**Hayley Cambrola Tess Carreiro**

**Destinee DeSousa Alexia D'Atri**

**Kristina Lynch Hannah Klein**

**Kylie McPherson Shaelyn Raposa**

**Brittni Skipper Alexandra Winnes**

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM**

**None**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:40 PM**

**MOTION:** In accordance with open meetings law 42-26-5(a)(2), at 7:40 PM Mrs. McBride motioned to go into Executive Session for an update on BWEA collective bargaining and Council 94 collective bargaining. Mrs. Campbell seconded. No action will be taken during the session. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Silva will recuse himself from the Council 94 discussion. Mrs. Arsenault will recuse herself from the BWEA discussion.

## **RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 8:09 PM**

Mr. Bento reported that in Executive Session the School Committee was updated on collective bargaining. No action was taken.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Bento tabled the approval of the February 13, 2012 Workshop minutes to the next business meeting.

**MOTION:** Mrs. McBride motioned to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. Mr. O'Dell seconded. Mrs. Arsenault requested Section A of Superintendent's Recommendation S2012-04 be removed for a separate vote. The motion to approve the consent agenda, minus Section A of S2012-04, passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

**MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to seal the minutes to the January 23, 2012 Executive Session; Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.**

**#S2012-04, Section A**

**MOTION: Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mr. Saviano seconded. Mrs. Arsenault stated lay-off notice will be given to more teachers and this action continues to upset her and she said there needs to be some kind of action to prevent this from going forward. Since the enactment of the BEP we are obligated to retain the best teachers we can and some of the teachers we are sending notice to are our best; this practice is demoralizing; we need to make a statement and address our legislators; Mrs. Arsenault will continue to vote no.**

**Mr. Silva agrees with everything Mrs. Arsenault stated, in theory, but he also recognizes that until the March 1 requirement is removed, we will have to continue to do this; it is regrettable.**

**The motion to approve passed by a vote of 8 to 1 with Mrs. Arsenault opposed.**

## **BUDGET FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mr. O'Dell will hold his comments to the discussion on the recommendation on the budget package.**

## **POLICY/ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mrs. Arsenault reported their next meeting is Monday, March 6 at Oliver; the time is undetermined; the agenda will include the Superintendent's evaluation process, discussion of a policy on the evaluation of all staff, discussion on the ethics policy for staff and administration, and a slight amendment to the Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drugs policy; the agenda will be issued on Thursday. A revision to the Search and Seizure policy is on tonight's agenda for a first reading.**

## **PERSONNEL/ CONTRACT NEGOTIATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mr. Saviano reported the Council 94 Negotiation Team held an organizational meeting; they hope to begin negotiations in April.**

## **WELLNESS COMMITTEE**

**Mrs. Campbell said their next meeting will be March 14 at which they will continue making plans for the second annual Wellness Week, April 30 to May 4; they are seeking input from the principals; Mrs. Rancourt will coordinate Kickemuit Wellness Center involvement.**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES**

**Mr. Bento asked Subcommittee Chairs to leave notice in the main**

meeting area if their Committee moves their meeting location during the meeting so that people who arrive after the meeting starts will know where to go; Mrs. Campbell suggested a note be left at the clerk's desk.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

### **S2012-04 A-J: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL**

**A. SUSPENSION, NON-RENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL:** Based on the uncertainty of sufficient Federal, State and local funding for general and categorical programs for the 2012-13 school year, and program reductions, consolidation of classes, re-alignment of staff and elimination of positions to more efficiently and effectively use the school system's assets and to meet the needs of students, the Superintendent recommends to the School Committee the termination/ non-renewal of the following listed personnel effective the last day of the 2011-12 school year:

1. Jeffrey Blanchet 9. Victoria Guthlein
2. Caitlin Booth 10. Sarah Jacobs
3. Nicole Correia 11. Peter Kells
4. Augusta Costa 12. Christopher Lambert
5. Carrie Devine 13. Melanie Lane
6. John Dexheimer 14. Carol Schlink
7. Norman Fortin 15. Laurel Thayer
8. Maureen Gauthier 16. Sarah Thurber

**B. SUSPENSION, NON-RENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL:** The Superintendent recommends to the School Committee the termination, effective the last day of the 2011-12 school year, of the following teacher for not fully and satisfactorily meeting teaching standards and/or completing the Bristol Warren Regional School District's corrective action plan in and for each of the listed areas in my letter of February 22, 2012:

1. Patricia Zarembka

**C. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the School of the 21st Century, Before and After School Program, as listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS clearance):

1. Ricki L. Wokoun Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of  
the 2011-12 school year, pending  
satisfactory completion of pre-  
employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

2. Ashley Sylvia Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of

**the 2011-12 school year, pending  
satisfactory completion of pre-  
employment requirements**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient**

**D. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the extracurricular position listed below for the 2011-12 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running this program):**

**SPRING COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH**

**Sport Position Coach**

**1. Baseball (Boys) Asst. Coach Bruce A. Marshall \***

**\* Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**E. MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individual for the 2011-12 session only of the Kickemuit Middle School Extended Day Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:**

**Name Position**

**1. Alexandra Yonan \* Mathematics Teacher**

**\* Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**



**F. ESL/TITLE I TUTORS:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2011-12 school year only as ESL/Title I Tutors contingent upon grant funding:

**Name**

- 1. Marion Fodor**
- 2. Madlyn McArdle**
- 3. Paula Richards-Sousa**

**G. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

**CERTIFIED**

**Name Area/Level**

- 1. JoAnn M. Boss Spanish/Portuguese/ESL/  
M.S. Spanish/M.S. Portuguese**
- 2. Tracey S. Bradley School Nurse**
- 3. Elizabeth S. Carlson General Subject Matter**
- 4. Juliana S. DeMello Registered Nurse**
- 5. Loretta E. Francis Elementary**
- 6. Matthew M. Griffin General Subject Matter**
- 7. Kimberly H. Jardin Registered Nurse**

- 8. Sarah K. Martin Early Childhood**
- 9. Deborah A. Metaxas Registered Nurse**
- 10. Keri L. Miller General Subject Matter**
- 11. Mary E. Natale General Subject Matter**
- 12. Ana P. Paulo Art**
- 13. Eric J. Urban General Subject Matter**
- 14. Gina M. Varrichione Registered Nurse**
- 15. Diane M. Wolfkiel Early Childhood/Elementary**

**H. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

**SECRETARIAL**

- 1. Hannah H. Brion**
- 2. Eileen C. Manchester**

**I. LEAVES OF ABSENCE:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant leaves of absence for an Elementary Special Educator as follows:

- 1. Joanna Davis Special Educator – Colt Andrews**  
**Effective: April 3, 2012, for 6-8 weeks**

**Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with  
Article 21, Section L1 of the Master  
Agreement**

**Joanna Davis Special Educator – Colt Andrews**

**Effective: Upon completion of Maternity Leave through the end of the  
2011-12 school year**

**Reason: Parental leave in accordance with  
Article 21, Section L2 of the Master  
Agreement**

**J. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the  
recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of  
Elizabeth A. Penkala from the position of Athletic Director and  
Patricia Fillipino from the position of Middle School Extended Day  
Science Teacher as listed below:**

**1. Elizabeth A. Penkala Athletic Director – Mt. Hope High**

**Effective: End of 2011-12 School Year**

**Reason: Personal**

**2. Patricia Fillipino Extended Day Science Teacher - Kickemuit**

**Effective: Immediately**

**Reason: Personal**

**Recommendation #S 2012-05: That the School Committee, upon the**

**recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the revised School Committee Policy JFG Student Interrogation, Search and Seizure (First Reading)**

**MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to approve; Mrs. Arsenault seconded. Mr. O'Dell consulted Attorney Henneous before the meeting with concerns about attempts being made to call parents in all situations, emergency and non-emergency, when there are reasonable grounds for a search. He asked that the Subcommittee make an amendment for the second reading. Mrs. Arsenault thanked Dr. Andrade for researching and revising the policy to make it more sensible. Mrs. Arsenault agrees with the recommendation and an amendment will be made for the second reading. The motion to approve, with the expectation of an amendment for the second reading, passed by a vote of 9 to 0.**

**Recommendation #S 2012-06: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of a Bristol family to home school their second grader for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District**

**MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. In response to Mr. Saviano, Mrs. Thies explained a family is invited to participate in our state assessment but we do not have the authority to mandate participation; attendance is checked at mid-year and end**

of the year; the curriculum is submitted upon application; a record of their assessment and the student's performance is submitted at the end of the year. Home schooled students do not receive a District or Mt. Hope diploma but they may request a letter stating they were home schooled for X number of years. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 8 to 1 with Mrs. McBride opposed.

**Recommendation #S 2012-07:** That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee, accept the proposed 2012-2013 budget package as presented by Administration and the Subcommittee

**MOTION:** Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded.

**MOTION:** Mrs. McBride moved to amend the motion to include the dollar amount requested -- \$54,606,498. Mr. Saviano seconded. Mrs. Campbell commented this request represents a 1.52% increase over last year's request, the lowest increase requested in her history; she believes Mrs. Thies and the administrative team have created a well-put together budget that is lean and provides programming to maintain the wonderful district that we have. Mrs. Lynch added this request meets the 4% cap.

Mr. O'Dell said Mr. Barboza had suggested he would not entertain a budget increase request of more than 4%. Mrs. Lynch stated Mr. Barboza's message was not to come to Joint Finance requesting

what we need, but to come with a figure within the cap because anything beyond that will not be considered. Mr. O'Dell then said that in a conversation with the Superintendent, Mrs. Thies said she believes we can do with the 4%, so that is indeed what we need. Mrs. Lynch feels Mr. Barboza's demand to the Subcommittee is audacious and wrong.

Mrs. Linda Rimoshytus asked about what the cuts will be and about the Joint Finance Committee meetings. Mrs. Thies said no programs will be cut. Regarding the Joint Finance meetings, Mr. Bento stated Mr. Barboza had indicated there would be only one this year; however, Mr. Bento told him he felt two would be more appropriate, locating one in each town, and one being to present information and the second for follow-up and action; information on the dates is expected this coming week.

Mr. Saviano, with confirmation from Mrs. Silva, said the \$400,000 fund balance last year was reappropriated and this year's fund balance of \$700,000 is figured in to the 4% request, along with \$510,000 in cuts; Mr. Saviano wishes the public to know the District is making every effort to "run mean and lean."

Mr. O'Dell felt compelled to state his position on Mr. Barboza's coloration. He said that four years ago the Chair suggested inviting Joint Finance to the Budget Subcommittee meetings; no one came. Then Mr. Barboza offered to come, so Mr. O'Dell invited him; he came

to bring information to the Subcommittee. Mr. O'Dell believes it was Mr. Barboza's intent to provide good information with which the the District could proceed in order to avoid the "headaches" of last year; Mr. O'Dell is grateful for this and said Mr. Barboza was a gentleman and stated publicly he would go to bat for us to get the 4%. Mr. Saviano questioned if Mr. Barboza's demeanor was the result of the article in the newspaper about his statements at the first meeting. Mr. O'Dell cautioned the Committee about turning a good budget process into comments about Councilman Barboza; this is about getting a budget and Mr. O'Dell is not interested in anything else said about Mr. Barboza.

Superintendent Thies feels we need to think very broadly and long-term and it would behoove the District to work with both Town Councils and the Joint Finance Committee because the budget problem is long term and the support of both Towns and our constituents is necessary for us to continue the fine work of the District.

The motion to amend the recommendation passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Mr. Silva commended all the people involved in the budget preparation. Mr. Silva stated he sent two emails to Mr. O'Dell, Mrs. Thies and Mrs. Silva asking for information about the recommendation to be voted on this evening; he does not like receiving an email on Friday about something requiring his vote on

**Monday. Bothersome to Mr. Silva is the \$510,000 cuts in staff and “other cuts.” Mr. Silva has questions on the revenues; he said we could get exactly what is requested from Joint Finance but mostly likely it will be something else. His hope is that between this reading and the final one, all blanks will be filled in so he can make an informed decision. Mr. Bento took some responsibility for the process saying it should have been on the workshop agenda; however, the information was covered in the three Budget Subcommittee meetings.**

**Mrs. Lynch expressed concern about how the 4% request will be impacted by the unresolved teachers’ contract. Mrs. Thies said administration is afforded some latitude within that negotiation process and is protected.**

**Mrs. Arsenault wished to state her reason for voting on the budget tonight—“we have to have a budget.” The work on the budget happens during Subcommittee meetings as well as in Mrs. Silva’s office; Committee members are given plenty of information. Mrs. Arsenault feels a little resentful about having taken the time go to Subcommittee meetings and is concerned about the tone of some of the Committee. She believes the Committee’s only job at this point is to look at the work of the people who were hired to do this and the work of the Subcommittee, and respect that work; they followed all the steps they are charged to follow.**



**Mr. O'Dell then stated he thought it was well-known we have four budgets—tonight's, Joint Finance's, June's and the "real" budget. Regarding Mr. Silva's implication he received no response, the cuts are in a document the Committee received two weeks ago; the Budget Subcommittee meetings are posted and Mr. Silva can attend. He said Mr. Silva "side-stepped" him many times in the past going directly to Mrs. Silva. Mr. O'Dell is in disbelief of the atmosphere at this meeting.**

**Mr. Silva responded he did not accuse anyone of anything. The Policy Subcommittee brings forward policies that "we tear apart." Mr. Silva said the document Mr. O'Dell mentioned was never given to him. He asked, if the full Committee is expected to attend Subcommittee meetings, then why do we have them. He was not accusing Mr. O'Dell or administration of failing to provide information.**

**Mr. Bento said the bottom line is it was his failure as Chair to get the budget information to the full Committee; the Subcommittee did their job; he directed the meeting to proceed.**

**At 9:00 PM, Mr. O'Dell left the meeting.**

**The motion to approve the recommendation as amended passed by a vote of 8 to 0.**

**Mrs. Campbell reminded the audience that on Wednesday, February**

**29, the Education Foundation and the District are collaborating on a very informative presentation by Dr. Larry Filippelli on internet safety that parents are encouraged to attend. The presentation begins at 6:30 PM at the Statehouse in Bristol at 240 High Street. Mrs. Thies said the presentation has been advertised in the local newspapers and she will be sending out a ConnectEd reminder.**

**Mr. Saviano urged the Committee to review the emails sent by the RI Association of School Committees regarding the six hours of education credits required of School Committee members.**

**Chairman Bento reiterated Mr. Barboza agreed to two Joint Finance meetings and gave his word to champion our budget request to the best of his ability.**

**ADJOURNMENT – 9:02 PM**

**MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mr. Saviano, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen A. Lynch, Secretary**

**/c**